

## **Questions and Responses to Concerns Regarding the Proposed Bridge on Lagunitas Creek at White House Pool**

**March 28, 2008**

### **Why are we studying the bridge and other pedestrian connections?**

In the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Final EIS/EIR, and Record of Decision (ROD), it was stated that it was the intent of the Park Service to work with the County of Marin in the future on evaluation and development of additional trail facilities on the southern perimeter of the Project Area, including potentially 1) Levee Road alignment, 2) extension of a trail to Inverness Park, and 3) construction of a non-vehicular bridge across Lagunitas Creek at the site of the summer dam.

We will compare the public access path and bridge to the Levee Road alignment. This planning process will not include the discussion of the extension trail to Inverness Park.

*A public meeting to address this issue has been scheduled for May 14, 2008 at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station.*

### **Is Marin County Involved?**

The NPS entered into this process in the context expressed in the FEIS/EIR. The County owns and/or manages a portion of the lands on which trail/road options are being considered and is interested and supportive of public access connections. Marin County is our cooperative partner in this process. In addition, any work along State Route 1 would include coordination with Caltrans.

### **What has been done to date on conceptual designs?**

As part of the recent process, the NPS contracted with landscape architects to further evaluate what type of bridge could work and how to meet various limitations/requirements. A number of planning constraints and regulatory requirements, including flood conveyance, endangered species, Americans with Disabilities Act access, and geotechnical issues have been identified as part of this initial investigation. The conceptual work to date has been conducted to see what is feasible, what it might look like, and what would it generally cost. With regard to Levee Road alignment, information was developed in the Initial Feasibility study by LandPeople (2005).

### **What is the overall planning process?**

Last Fall NPS and the County agreed to collaborate to develop a bridge design and related materials in order to present a visual picture and summary data on a conceptual bridge alternative for public input. It has been the intent to meet with interested groups for review and comment on the conceptual planning information. This meeting is now set for May 14, 2008 at the Dance Palace in Point Reyes Station. The public would certainly have a chance to comment at this proposed meeting.

The intent of the general public meeting would be to provide updated information on the potential Point Reyes Public Access options, including the bridge and Levee Road alignment.

**What are the next steps?**

All work to date has been conceptual in nature. Based on feedback at the public meeting, NPS and the County will revisit the potential options, costs and priorities for proceeding with a public access project, either the bridge or Levee Road improvements.

Any potential project would go through a formal design process and NEPA/CEQA compliance process. The scope of the project will determine the level of additional compliance needed and how the project planning will continue.

The bridge or Levee Road alignment options would require review and permitting by a number of state and federal agencies. The location of the project area requires consideration of a number of regulatory standards.

- Any proposed project would likely require permits from multiple agencies including:
  - California Coastal Commission
  - California Department of Fish and Game
  - National Marine Fisheries Service
  - US Army Corps of Engineers
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Any proposed project would be located within an active floodplain. Federal agencies must consider compliance with Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain management and 11990 – Protection of Wetlands.